Monday, March 5, 2012 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 88 P16 | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet



WALK WITH A VIEW With the onset of summer, tourists negotiate a 100-meter hanging bridge on Ligñon Hill in Legazpi City in Albay near the airport. The hill has an elevation of 156 meters and offers one of the best views of majestic Mayon Volcano.

Key defense witness is lawyer-accountant



GONZALES

House says CJ has no choice but take stand

By Gil C. Cabacungan

IMPEACHED Chief Justice Renato Corona's refusal to take the witness stand will be his undoing, according to leaders of the House of Representatives seeking to oust him for allegedly being unfit to stay in office.

"I think if he does not testify, it will guarantee his conviction," said House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II after Corona's lead defense counsel, Serafin Cuevas, last week raised the possibility that his client would not be put on the witness stand.

HOUSE / A11

Testimony of Corona seen as trial climax

By Christian V. Esguerra

DEFENSE LAWYERS are gearing up for a crucial phase in the proceedings, putting "finishing touches" on the testimony of a key witness who will "lay the groundwork" for Chief Justice Renato Corona's likely appearance as the "climax" of the impeachment trial.

Describing Article 2 of the impeachment complaint as the real "battleground," defense counsel Ramon Esguerra said the witness—a lawyer and a certified public accountant (CPA) —would discuss in detail that "there is every justification for the entries" in Corona's statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

Esguerra said the Chief Justice would then explain the sources of money declared in the SALNs, including those used to purchase properties mentioned in the documents.

"The emerging consensus is he will take the stand," Esguerra told the Inquirer in an interview shortly after Corona met with his 12 lawyers for around three hours in Makati City on Friday afternoon.

Asked how soon the Chief Justice would testify, the defense counsel said: "I think logically, he should be the last to take the (witness) stand be-

KEY DEFENSE / A11



PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER President Aquino prays before the coffin of Inquirer publisher Isagani M. Yambot Sr. at Arlington Memorial Chapels in Quezon City. ERIC PERTIGUERRA

Tributes pour in at Gani's wake

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday paid his respects to the late Inquirer publisher Isagani M. Yambot Sr. as members of the local media world led by Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, paid tribute to the departed veteran journalist at Arlington Memorial Chapels in Quezon City.

Mr. Aquino stood alone beside the brown casket, apparently in prayer, before taking a seat beside Yambot's wife Mildred to convey his condolence to the family. He and Mrs. Yambot talked for several minutes.

The President was accompanied by his security aides and Rey Marfil, assistant secretary of the Presidential Communications and Operations Office. Mr. Aquino stayed at the wake, held at Fidelidad Chapel on the ground.

TRIBUTES / A22

Portrait of a publisher: I've got work up to here / A22

Arrogance of rush to prejudgment

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE PROSECUTION is in a hurry to rest its case against Chief Justice Renato Corona as swiftly as it pushed the impeachment complaint to the Senate after collecting 188 signatures of congressmen in a record time of three hours in a single day.

Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., the lead prosecutor, stunned the Senate impeachment court when he announced on Feb. 28, the 25th day of the trial, that the House panel was done, confident it had presented "overwhelming evidence" to convict Corona on charges of betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution.

Tupas announced that the House leadership and the prosecution team had agreed to drop Articles 1, 4, 5, 6 and 8 of the impeachment complaint.

Its case has now narrowed

ARROGANCE / A6

$110-B BUDGET

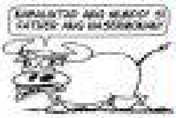
China boosts military spending

BEIJING—China will boost its military spending by 11.2 percent this year, the government said on Sunday, unveiling Beijing's first defense budget since US President Barack Obama launched a "pivot" to reinforce American influence across the Asia-Pacific region.

Li Zhaoxing, the spokesperson for China's parliament, announced that the defense budget would bring official spending on the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to 670.2 billion yuan ($110 billion) for 2012, after a 12.7-percent increase last year and a nearly unbroken string of double-digit rises across two decades.

China's public budget is widely believed by foreign experts to undercount its real spending on military modernization, which has unnerved Asian neighbors and drawn ro-

CHINA / A11

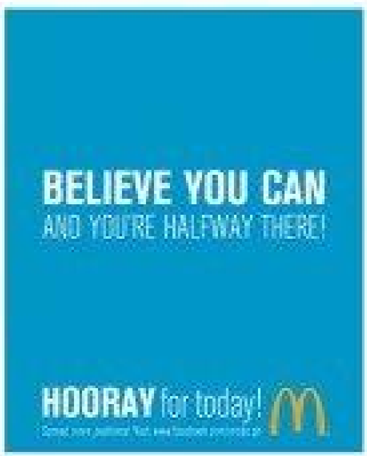


Miriam takes on priest this time

By Christian V. Esguerra

SHE ISN'T the type who would back down when challenged by a fellow politician or by a fellow lawyer. Neither would she when confronted by a man of the cloth.

MIRIAM / A6



Second FrontPage



Belmonte: No to mining ban

SPEAKER Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said Congress would amend but not revoke the 1995 Mining Act amid a deep-seated dispute between pro- and anti-mining advocates.

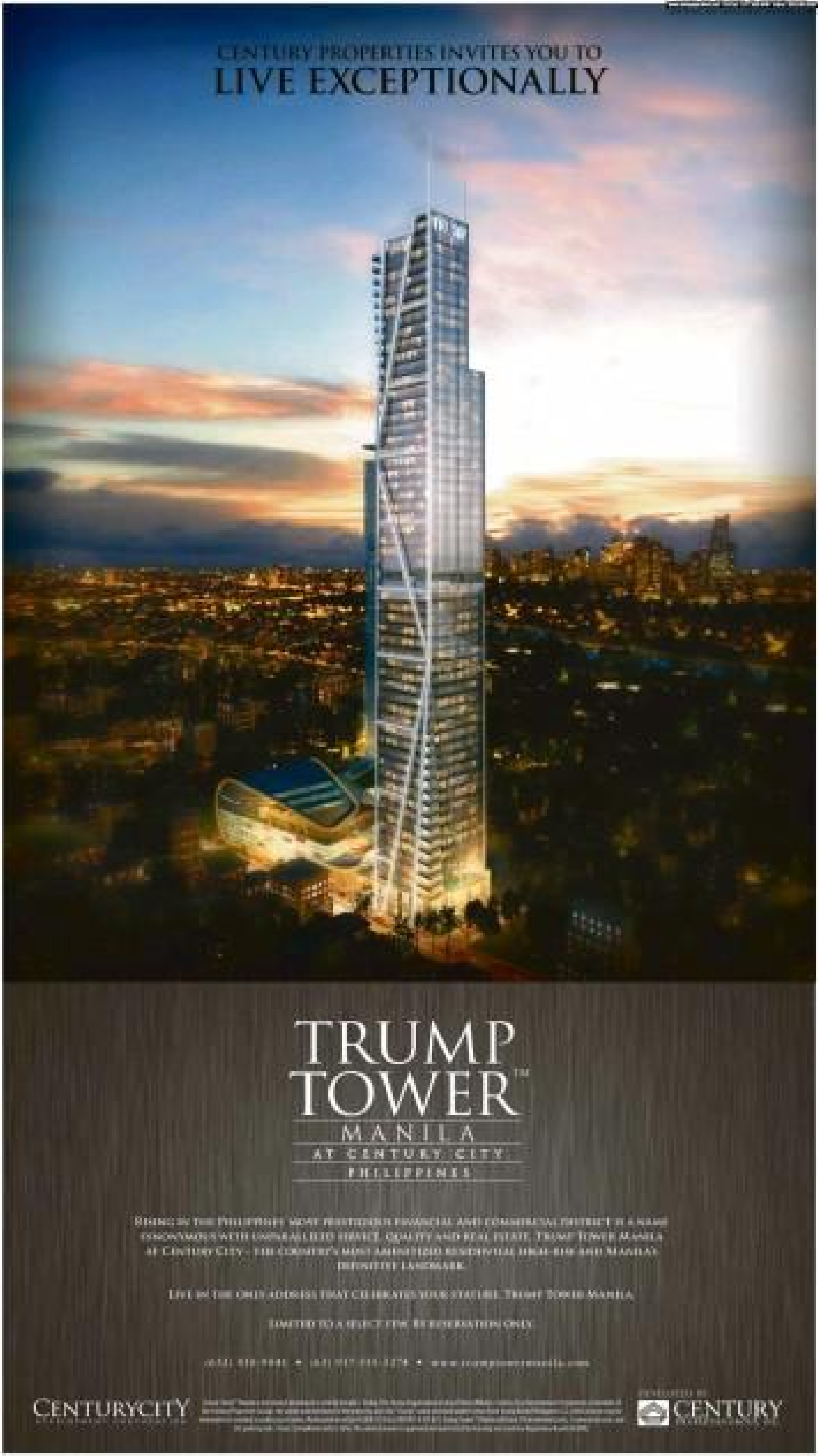
[illegible]

Spending for P-Noy visit to NBP scored

[illegible]

Telcos overcharging texters—Casiño

[illegible]


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CENTURY



'They want to be nurses'

Few openings

Charity now begins online

THE ARCHDIOCESE of Manila has provided a portal via its newly revamped website that would allow the Catholic faithful from across the globe to send in their donations for the Church's charity programs.

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Tagle has tapped Union Bank to provide assistance in its online fund-raising activities, according to [illegible], head of the Archdiocese of Manila's Office of Communications.

At the launch, Tagle urged the faithful to help spread the "good news" and promote the website to the world.

"Let us spread the good news and spread it to the whole world. Start clicking!" Tagle said after feeding the [illegible] on the website on [illegible] in [illegible], Manila.

The website, www.rcam.org, was first launched in 2005 mainly as a source of information about the archdiocese. Since then, the website has also been used as a means of communicating among the parishioners.

It includes online as well as mobile payment channels, and uses donation reporting, and a check disbursement system.

Jocelyn R. Uy



RUNNERS SET RECORD

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday - March 5, 2012
2nd Week of Lent

1st Reading: Dn 9:4-10

Gospel: Luke 6:36-38

Reflection

More Pinoys now wish to flee Syria at gov't expense

Tesda gears up for major role in K+12 plan



Arrogance of rush to prejudgment

Predicament

Out of ammunition

Unethical behavior

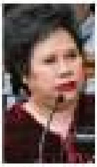
Presumptuous







Miriam takes on priest this time



SANTIAGO

Back at fault

"Publicity hound"

Cancer patient, Janet Duron: I won the race against the angel of death!

—The combined therapy of Cryoablation, Intervention therapy, and Bio-immuno therapy had removed the tumor completely.



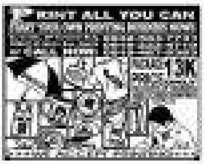
Plane crash claims Norwegian tourist























4 killed, 8 hurt in Jolo bombing

Sardines biting again off Mindanao



Yasay slams ways of banking officials

Drug use up in PH, says UN body

By Tina G. Santos

[illegible]







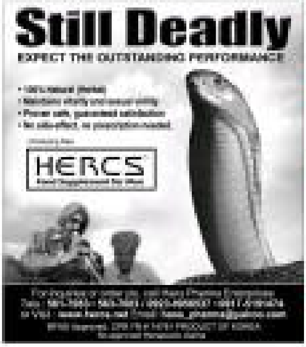




College students to help cops with relief, rescue

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

[illegible]








"THE LOBBY MAKES A
FIVE S
FIVE-STAR HOMES IN


GREAT IMPRESSION."
TARS!
N PRIME LOCATIONS
SMDC

INQUIRER

OPINION

Name game

EDITORIAL



Why judge should inhibit self from Abalos case

AS I SEE IT



Neal H. Cruz

Contempt

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

About abandoned articles and plagiarism

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



London on my mind

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan



Enticements before the verdict?

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Dr. Antonio J. Montalvan II



We thought horse-trading had become a thing of the past under the Aquino administration

Where is Jesus' seamless garment?

COMMENTARY

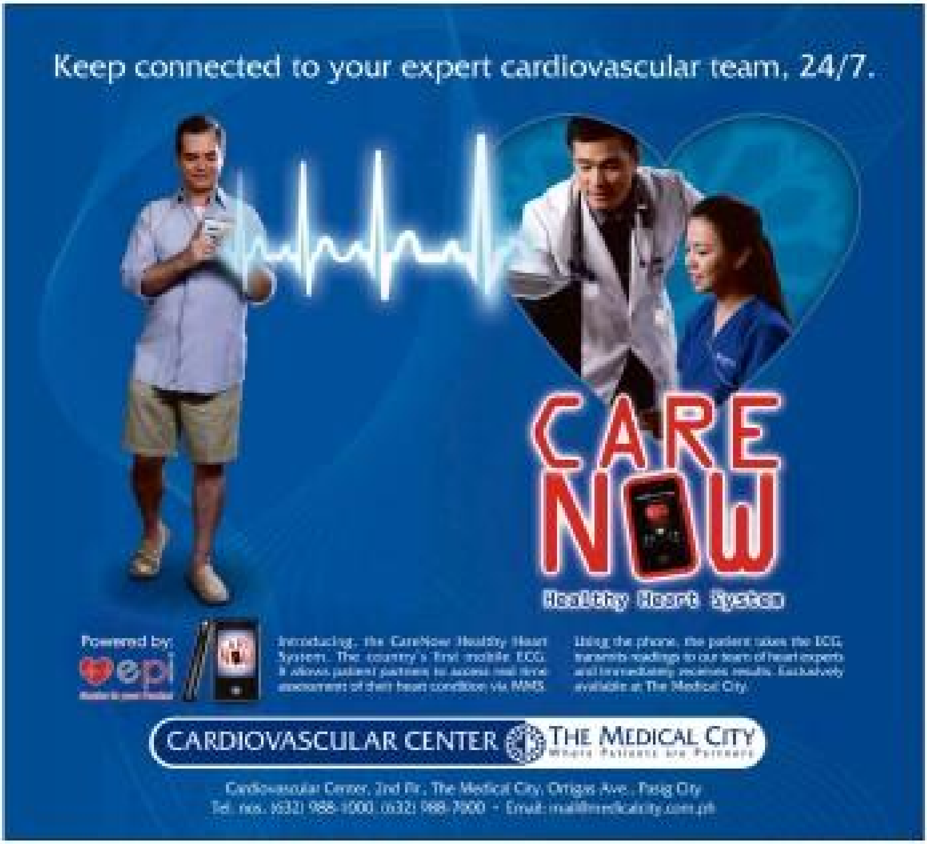
Asuncion David Maramba

Fish importation as a threat

An all forgotten Senate pledge

A thought for all in impeachment times

Dissenting opinions can just be hearsay evidence



Nagbabantay.

Nagbabalita.

Naglilingkod.

TAYO ANG MGA PATROL NG PILIPINO.



TV PATROL 25

Samahang walang iwanan sa loob ng 25 taon.

ABS-CBN

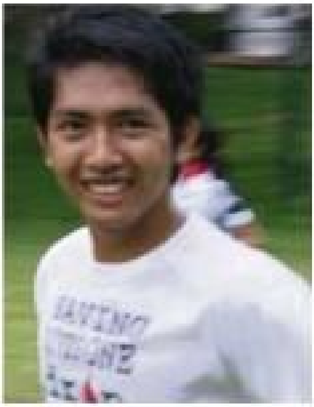
THIRD IN 5 MONTHS

UPLB outraged over student's killing

By Maricar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CAMP PACIANO RIZAL, Laguna—A 19-year-old student of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) was stabbed dead Sunday, causing fear and rage in the UPLB community as it happened less than a week after a high school student was raped and murdered in the same vicinity.

Police revamp



A FACEBOOK page was created to seek justice for the killing of UPLB student Ray Bernard Peñaranda on Sunday.

Clark airport naming feud taken to Congress

Conditional

Debate

'Collegial'

Bulacan dads' political bond cracks

Running mates

Conflict of interest

Complaint

Residents barred from earthquake-hit villages



INQUIRER READ-ALONG

Pangasinan kids learn to prepare for disasters



32 CCTVs in Biñan City

Small-scale miners seek gov't help for livelihood

Albay to ban plastic, smoking, coco tree cutting



Gov't won't tackle new issues bugging pact with MNLF—Deles

Village execs should be appointed, not elected, says Comelec chair

Key defense witness is lawyer-accountant

House says CJ has no choice

Portrait of a publisher: I've got work up to here

By John Perry

Inquirer's voice



GRAMMAR COP

'Good job'

Some of the best

Tributes pour in at Gani Yambot's wake

'We love you'

Touching lives

Godspeed, Gani

Prayers for Gani









AFP gets ₱4.7B from camps' conversion

China boosts military spending



Vroman, Caguioa shine for Gins; Petron triumphs



Same Pacquiao training routine against Bradley



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2011 AWARDS
MEGAWORLD

Aplus
METRO
Editor: Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

MUNTINLUPA was converted from a municipality to a highly urbanized city through Republic Act No. 7926 which was signed by former President Fidel V. Ramos on March 1, 1995. The conversion of the city was confirmed as a result of a plebiscite held on May 8, 1995.

Inquirer Research

HOME ALONE

3 kids killed in fire

By Miko Morelos

THREE children who were home alone were killed when a fire broke out shortly before midnight yesterday in a community of illegal settlers in Pasay City, according to a fire official.

City fire marshal Douglas Guiyab said that six other people were injured in the blaze which destroyed rows of shanties on F.B. Harrison Street and left some 100 families homeless.

He identified the fatalities as [illegible], 3, [illegible], 2, and [illegible], 1.

Mother out on an errand

Guiyab said that the children's mother had gone out of the house to buy medicine and left the three sleeping boys by themselves.

By the time she got back, her house was already up in flames.

The fire reached the fourth alarm before firefighters extinguished the flames at 2:00 a.m. yesterday.

At press time, arson investigators were still trying to determine what started the blaze although Guiyab said it may have been caused by an unattended lit candle.

He added that before the fire broke, there was no electricity in the area and a lot of people were using candles for lighting.

Guiyab said that the flames quickly spread from house to house because most of the structures in the area were made of light materials.

Reminder to public

He reminded the public to exercise caution whenever they use candles and to keep them away from flammable items.

Personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection have been conducting information campaigns in several fire-prone areas in the metropolis as part of their efforts to help prevent blazes in line with March being Fire Prevention Month.



ANOTHER DAY

The setting sun turns the sky into a canvas filled with pink and purple hues on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

Valenzuela City gets 33rd barangay

By Nico Calleja

Slain rookie cop cited



RESPITE FROM THE HEAT

Bulacan execs back slay suspect

Metro Citizen's call 4467

Heavy traffic blamed on illegal vendors

Loading/unloading bays need declogging

Noisemakers irk resident

Footbridge a haven for vendors, snatchers

Sleepless in Quezon City

Vendors, PUVs clog sidewalks

Pedestrian overpass needs repairs

Crackdown on sidewalk squatters pushed



JUST A REMINDER

Grenade blast leaves 5 injured

MetroBriefs

2 hurt in accident in QC

2 girls drown in Pasig river

The WORLD

China demands end to violence in Syria as regime blocks aid

Japan PM says gov't shares blame in Fukushima crisis

TOKYO—Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda of Japan acknowledged on Saturday that the government shared the blame for the disaster at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, saying that officials had been blinded by a false belief in the country's technological infallibility, even as he vowed to push for the idled reactors to be restarted.



WORLDBRIEFS

Putin seeks Kremlin return as Russia votes

Criminal case on cruise ship wreck opens in Italy

Ahmadinejad rivals rack up parliament wins

Residents mourn dead after tornadoes kill 38 in US

Suu Kyi says she's healthy again after falling ill

All-Girl Mapua Team wins 8th SWEEP Awards

The student-faculty team from the Mapua Institute of Technology emerged victors in the 8th SWEEP Innovation and Excellence Awards, the annual search of Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) for the most innovative wireless applications by students.

"Wearable Obstacle Detection System and Braille Cell Phone for the Blind" stood out from among 143 entries received by the Smart Wireless Engineering Education Program (SWEEP) awards committee.

Mapua's winning application is a dual-purpose wearable device that consists of an obstacle detection system and a standard cell phone with Braille keypad designed to allow blind persons to experience ease in mobility and communication.

The other winners were:

- **First runner-up**
  Entry: *"Smart E-mobilized"*
  School: *Notre Dame of Marbel University*
- **Second runner-up**
  Entry: *"Aquamarine Solution to Salinity and Oxygen Using Wireless Technology"*
  School: *Bataan Peninsula State University*

A new category was introduced this year to encourage the development of mobile applications.

- **Champion: "Palay Quality Checker through Leaf Coloration by Image Analysis"**
  School: *Bataan Peninsula State University*
- **Runners-up:**
  Entry: *"Smart SHOPerone"*
  School: *Ateneo de Manila University*

  Entry: *"Taxi Ko"*
  School: *Ateneo de Naga University*

Also featured was the much anticipated PalaECEpan quiz bee, jointly hosted by Smart and the Institute of Electronic Engineers of the Philippines (IECEP). This year's PalaECEpan champion is **Timothy Almado** from the **Technological University of the Philippines – Manila.**

Since 2004, Smart has been holding the SWEEP Awards to promote a culture of innovation and excellence in wireless applications development among partner schools under SWEEP, an industry-academe partnership that seeks to raise the level of technology and engineering education in the country.



Smart executives led by (from left) Public Affairs Group Head Ramon Isberto, Technology Services Division Planning and Engineering Access Manager Irene Alvarez and Program Management Office Department Head Baron Tabada award the winners from the Mapua Institute of Technology (from left) Jeanne Alyna Pangasihan, Cilly Parcela, Loriena Roxanne Ocalo and Kristine Ivey Malabong.



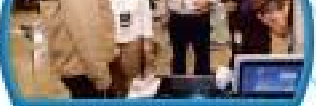
Bataan Peninsula State University wins the grand prize in the mobile application development category. Photo shows the winning team (from left) McArthur Quiñones, Jervy Escueta, Jean Haidie Maria Criselle De Jesus, Alejandro Cosca, Jr. and Jon-Alvin Cabang.



(from right) Louis Brayson Flores of Notre Dame of Marbel University explains how their application can help minimize the time and effort spent on buying tickets at MRT and LRT stations to judges Ivan Flores, Earl Valencia and Harly Alvarez.



Timothy Almado of the Technological University of the Philippines-Manila is this year's PalaECEpan champion.



Danye Kangalang of Bataan Peninsula State University explains to the judges how their application can help prevent incidents of fish mortality.

KABALIKAT SA EDUKASYON

SMART

SPORTS

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ Beermen nip PH Patriots /A30



■ Football win caps UST's UAAP romp /A31

Vargas exhorts PSA awardees

Orcollo, Donaire share Athlete of the Year honors



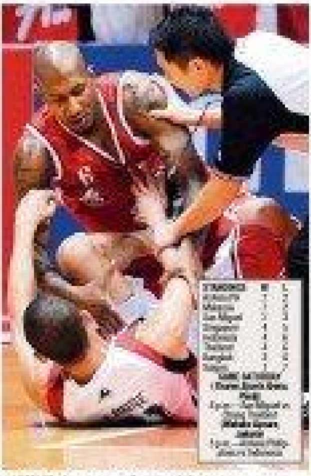


... for the feats in 2011.

Xavier's Teng picks La Salle

FIGHT-MARRED ABL DUEL

Beermen nip Patriots five



PH female pugs shut out Sri Lankans

PSL gears up for strong Universiade stint

PBA fans clamoring for dominant 'imports'

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

Castrol karting clinic new dates

Rosales ends up 16th in World Ladies



SUMMIT POINT BACKER.

UM-Tagum sweeps Mindanao leg

Football win caps UST's UAAP romp



Sports is more than just about games

ONE GAME AT A TIME

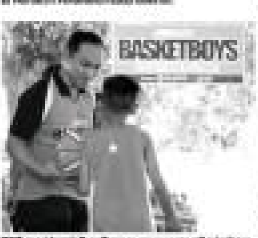


Basketboys nurture hoops dreams

One Meralco Foundation holds basketball clinic, values formation in DSWD youth shelter









Vietnam chess: Paragua joins Gomez, Ni on top

[illegible]

SPORTS

Hawks derail Thunder roll

[illegible]



[illegible]

Federer whips Murray, rules Dubai Open

[illegible]



FEDERER

[illegible]

Huey, partner reach Delray Beach quarters

[illegible]



[illegible]

USGC Supports CALAMBA FOOTBALL FESTIVAL 2012

[illegible]

Etheridge, Caligdong cleared to rejoin Azkals in Nepal

[illegible]

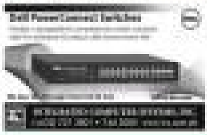


PH female pugs shut out Sri Lankans

[illegible]



[illegible]



Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

BUSINESS



Gov't to auction idle mining assets

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

42.685



STOCK MARKET

77.69



Stocks seen to rise

Agency awaiting signing of EO on reforms

MINING assets with canceled applications and permits will go on auction after President Aquino signs mining reforms, according to Mines and Geosciences Bureau director Leo L. Jasareno.

Finance prods SC to act on 29 cases

IN THIS ISSUE

SMC, Metro Pac spar over elevated highway deal

One claims superiority, the other vows to decongest Edsa

Rival TV stations claim top ratings

Gov't to auction idle mining assets

Finance prods SC to act on 29 cases

Stocks seen to rise

Mining debate, part 2?

Biz Buzz

By the staff

Tough love

Deal dampener

PSBank said, BSP said

Union Bank play

Red herring

Nomura sees PH economy growing by 4.6% this year

Maynilad allots P2.64B for south Metro projects

Bulk of funds to fund pipelines in Cavite



Araneta group launches Novotel hotel project

The unfinished

More than five decades of excellence in newspapering

ISAGANI MANIAUL YAMBOT

R.I.P.

Born: November 16, 1934 – Died: March 2, 2012

The body lies in state at the Arlington Funeral Homes in Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Surviving are his wife, **Mildred Gloria**; children **Ma. Victoria** and **Ramon Jose**, **Isagani Jr.**, **Juliet** and **Jess Factora**, **Ernesto** (abroad), **Maripaz** (abroad), and **Vilma** and **Steve Santhuff** (abroad); sister **Erlinda** (deceased), brothers and sisters-in-law **Mario** (deceased) and **Aurora**, **Reuben** and **Rosita**, **Efren** and **Lerma**, and **Armando** (deceased) and **Anding**; nieces and nephews; and grandchildren.

Interment will be announced later after arrival of family members from abroad.

CLASSIFIEDS

Business



Cebu Pacific keen on PAL entitlements to UAE

Gokongwei firm prepares for long-haul flights

[illegible]

The unfinished business of People's Power Revolution

COMMENTARY

Crony-based economics

[illegible]

The Philippines under Marcos

[illegible]

Beginning of reforms

[illegible]

Continuing Reforms

[illegible]

Obstacles

[illegible]



Business





MNTC set to open vital NLEx artery in Bulacan

Concessionaire raring to start work on Manila harbor link

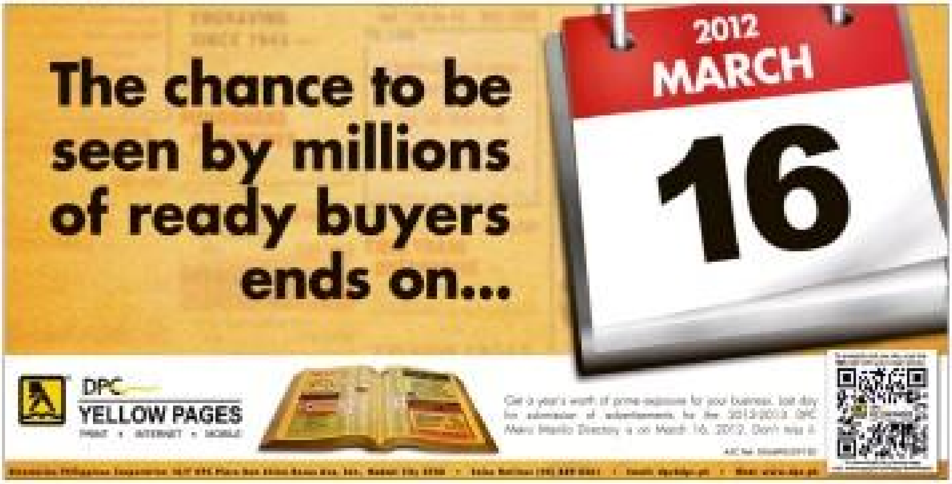
PH may look forward to French aid





BSP zeroes in on 'integrity' factor





Alsons to add power capacity

ACR seeks partner for project's 1st phase worth $280M

FMIC posts 28.8% rise in net income

Puregold goes for 25% profit growth in '12

EDC profit dipped in 2011

Philippine Stock Exchange

BSP zeroes in on 'integrity' factor

This committee will prevent the bank from taking excessive risks that may endanger the security of deposits from the public.

The good governance committee will see to the creation of a system of evaluating performance of bank employees to further promote good governance.

"Since reputation is a valuable asset, it is to the institution's best interest that, in dealing with the public, it observes a high standard of integrity," the BSP said in the circular.

"The board of directors shall lead in establishing the tone of good corporate governance from the top and in setting corporate values, codes of conduct, and other standards of appropriate behavior for itself, the management, senior management and other employees."

The issuance of the guidelines came amid a push in the international community for banking sectors worldwide to observe high standards of good corporate governance to prevent the occurrence of problems, such as those that led to the recent financial crisis.

Lack of good governance policies was partly blamed for the failure of banks in the West, which resulted in a recession for many advanced economies.

PH may look forward to French aid

AFD's motto, he said, is to foster a "low-carbon growth path" for the countries it supports.

However, the AFD does not set "pre-determined envelopes" for the countries it supports, he noted.

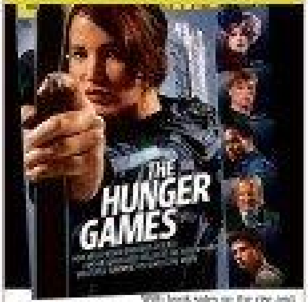
"It really depends on the macro-economic situation and the request from the Philippine government. It has to be aligned with the Philippine Development Plan," Le Gabellec said.

AFD first engaged the Philippine government in 2010, partnering with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to fund the country's financing and budget reform program.

In the last 18 months, Le Gabellec said, AFD has been working with the Aquino administration to identify projects that the French aid agency can fund.



ANALYST RECOMMENDS BUYING LIONSGATE STOCK BECAUSE OF 2012 'HUNGER GAMES' FILM



With book sales for the [illegible] built for The Hunger Games continuing to grow with each passing day, analysts seem to be constantly rethinking the potential revenue the film could bring in at the box office.

Earlier predictions had the film's Domestic gross estimated at 150 million. Then just last month that was raised to 170 million and now once more that figure is on the rise, with some analysts predicting 200 million. All well above Lionsgate's stated goals of 100 million to greenlight the sequels.

A new article from Bloomberg states: "The first of four "The Hunger Games" films, about teens fighting for their lives in a post-apocalyptic world, may generate [illegible] in domestic box-office sales, and likely another [illegible] from international", according to Matthew Harrigan, an analyst with Wunderlich Securities, one of the biggest brokerage firms in the country. He recommends buying Lionsgate stock.

"The [illegible] this would be comparable to the 'Twilight' franchise," Harrigan adds.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF ASIAN HOSPITAL, INC.

[illegible]

SUMMARY OF THE TERMS OF THE TENDER OFFER

Shares Subject of the Tender Offer	[illegible]
The Offer	[illegible]
Tender Offer Period	[illegible]
Settlement Date	[illegible]
Acceptance of Tendered Shares	[illegible]
Settlement	[illegible]
Withdrawal	[illegible]
Fees and Expenses	[illegible]
Transaction Agent	[illegible]

[illegible]

BUSINESS

Exports seen to pick up

DBS looks forward to trade resurgence by '13

By Bernal W. Domingo

THE EXPECTED turnaround of Philippine exports this year may lead to a revival of the electronics industry in two years' time, according to DBS Group.

The financial services institution said in a special report on the Philippines that a cyclical rebound in electronics exports could set in this year after the country posted a 22-percent decline in 2011.

DBS said improving demand for electronics in the United States would support a bottoming out in the electronics cycle.

Also, the Singapore-based group said the disruption in electronics manufacturing capabilities in Thailand could lead to a short-term shift in demand toward the Philippines.

"However, a sharp recovery is not expected given ongoing concerns about the euro zone debt crisis and the state of the US economy," it added.

DBS further said that the country's performance in electronics exports continued to lag compared with other countries.

"Current weak electronics exports can be attributed to low investment levels over the last decade and a heavy dependence on the semiconductor segment," the group said.

"Resurgent electronics investments in 2010 and 2011 should spark a revival in the electronics industry from 2013 onwards."

Based on DBS monitoring, electronics investments totaled $1.5 billion in 2011, lower than "an already high" $2.2 billion in 2010.

"Total investment for 2010 and 2011 is equivalent to the investment from 2002 to 2009 combined. The country may also benefit with firms looking to diversify their electronics manufacturing base away from Thailand following the flood disaster," DBS said. "We expect electronics exports to resume a growth trajectory after staying essentially flat over the last decade."

Last month, DBS said Philippine exports could grow by 1.2 percent this year, a turnaround from the 6.9-percent decline in 2011.

According to the National Statistics Office, export receipts fell for the eighth consecutive month in December at 20.7 percent year on year, worse than the DBS forecast of 16.7 percent.

This brought the full-year export performance to a decline of 6.9 percent, lower than DBS' own projection of 5.2 percent.

Eenie meenie mining

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

THE AQUINO (Part II) administration, as it turned out, at least according to news reports, had to defer the issuance of an executive order spelling out its new mining policy. The Palace was supposed to issue the EO about a month ago, which was moved to the end of February. The EO has yet to come out. Something obviously happened.

Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. reportedly said the administration wanted to get the "necessary input" from the mining industry.

Can you believe that? Wait a minute there, bosses, because it seems to us that the administration bypassed the very sector that the new policy would disturb—or not totally disturb, I guess—somebody in the administration forgot to do his job. And that could only be Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje, who rose from the ranks at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, having started as a junior forester back in 1982.

From what I gathered, Paje was only supposed to be a temporary head of the DENR. His position was reserved for a losing senatorial candidate in the party slate of our leader Benigno Simeon (a.k.a. BS) in the 2010 national elections. The law prohibits a losing candidate from taking up position in the government within a year of the elections. The one-year ban passed, but Paje remained as DENR head. This guy, according to DENR insiders, has been a really player in the department under any of the past administrations.

Anyway, the decision of the Aquino (Part II) administration to defer the EO issuance seems to be another attempt to bail out the DENR head, particularly by other issues affecting the sector that the good secretary must supervise: the very same mining industry.

Whatever happens to the mining sector, actually is an important part of his job?

* * *

NOT too long ago, for example, the DENR head simply turned down the application for ECC (environmental clearance certificate) requested by Sagittarius Mines, which was willing to sink more than $5 billion in a huge copper and gold mining project in South Cotabato called Tampakan. There was a local ordinance in the province banning open-pit mining—a method adopted by the company from the inception of the project. Paje simply ruled that the company could not get the ECC because of the ban.

In effect, the DENR passed on the authority to approve or reject mining projects to LGUs, basically surrendering the authority of the national government over the large-scale Tampakan project, together with all the national economic interests attached to it.

Also, just to be given a chance to be heard on something that would mean life and death to their business, not to mention the thousands of workers dependent on the mining sector, the Chamber of Mines (COMP), which groups together some 30 large-scale mining companies in the country, had to raise hell. Paje refused to listen to their arguments, telling COMP that they would have to go straight to our leader BS.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the very official who must be on top of the mining industry, without everybody just closed the door to any "consultation" with the mining industry. Our brave DENR head passed the buck to our leader BS.

From what I gathered, Paje never really heard the side of the large-scale mining industry, as opposed to "small-scale" miners, whose permits come not from the DENR but from the LGUs. The "mining study group" that crafted the proposed EO, actually, gave COMP a consultation time of all of 2 hours. That stand, Paje reportedly was not even present during the 2-hour consultation.

According to organizations in big business, such a bypass was bad for the country's investment climate. It could ruin confidence in the business community. After all, survey after survey showed that "investment climate" has direct links to the actual amount of investments being made in any country.

Moreover, we are talking here of an industry that, in 2010, based on the latest available official figures, exported something like $2 billion worth of minerals, and it was that industry that contributed about P14 billion in taxes and other fees to the government.

And the boss in the DENR never even heard the position of the industry that was the most important sector in his turf?

Major dailies quoted Paje as saying that all the views of the mining industry regarding the new EO must go straight to our leader BS. And so the Palace deferred the EO. As I said, the administration said it had to get "input" from the mining sector. Wow.

Do we take it then that we do not need a DENR secretary anymore? We just go straight to BS, right?

* * *

NOW, the Palace has been saying that the new mining EO aimed to correct what the administration called "loopholes" in the government rules on the mining industry.

On the part of COMP, the EO would be good for the industry as it could help normalize the investment climate in the sector. It could perhaps resolve several conflicts, such as the ordinances issued by LGUs, which directly contradicted laws passed by Congress. The rules of the business, in other words, have become an eenie-meenie guessing game for the mining companies.

Thus, COMP entertained hopes that, with the EO in place, all conflict would be resolved, and the mining companies could finally start doing what they did best: extracting minerals from the ground and turning them into national economic wealth.

You see, according to published reports by the US State Department, the Philippines has been sitting on mineral resources worth about $840 billion—or about P3.7 trillion at the current exchange rate of the peso. To think, certain economic think tanks have always believed that the US figure was even conservative.

To the industry's surprise, however, the EO turned out to be the exact opposite. For instance, the draft would require existing mining companies to cough out to the government an additional amount (called "royalty payment") equivalent to 5 percent of their gross income.

At present, as the chamber claimed in a paper presented to the Palace, the large-scale mining companies already remit to the government, in taxes and other fees, more than 50 percent of their net income. After all, the government already determined that the so-called revenue leakage comes from small-scale miners. Large-scale mining companies for instance paid taxes and fees amounting to P14 billion in 2010.

Thus the EO, to the mining industry, seemed pointless. And so nobody could blame the industry if it feared that the new rules were designed to discourage investments in the sector—simply a veiled mining ban.

Business

Recent BSP policy rate cut deemed too small

Dims chances of immediate sovereign ratings upgrade

By Doris C. Dumlao

Economic briefing set



BP reaches $7.8-B deal with plaintiffs over Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010

Moody's downgrades Gre

Spanish deficit tests Europe's fiscal treaty

Oil retreats after surge on Saudi supply scare

...ce rating to lowest possible level after debt restructuring deal

Prolonged low rates challenge investors

Fund managers zero in on yield, value

Ignore market surge, be true to yourself





BUSINESS

ADB plans to invest $100M in environment fund

Support for green projects in developing countries



Power Situation Outlook

SBC obtains high rating from local credit watcher

₱4.6-B steel project gets conditional approval

Globe Telecom Implements Flash Networks' Complete Harmony Services Gateway

Harmony improves user experience, reduces network congestion, and monetizes over-the-top content on the Globe mobile network

GOINGS-ON

Finex forum on real estate

Write well workshops

Healthcare package

BUSINESS *Monday*

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

There is lucrative career in insurance



ANTONIO De Rosas of Pru Life

By Michelle V. Remo

MULTINATIONAL life insurer Pru Life UK intends to grow its business in the Philippines and plans to do so by attracting more people to serve as insurance agents.

Antonio de Rosas, president of Pru Life's office in the Philippines, says the company sees a huge potential for income growth in the Philippines. Such potential, he says, may be maximized if there will be more people selling its products and making the public understand the benefits of having insurance policies.

[illegible]

MAP CSR leadership challenge awardees named

MAPping the Future

Environmental agenda

Best in health

Validators

Movements

Passing of torch at Concepcion Industries

Marriott Manila appoints new GM

How couple made sure toys are not just for Christmas



Birthing pains

Toy trends

Copyright infringement

Must: Quality, design and profitability

GOINGS-ON

Laundry shop seminar set

LRI summer sale March 1-17

Golden ABC awarded People Program of the Year

How to start a home-based venture

BUSINESS *Monday*



Must: Quality, design and profitability





Health advocates highlight gains

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Chabacano film fest at Cervantes /D2

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books



Pampanga museum opens with inaugural exhibit of Manansala works





Sentimental tour of Museo De La Salle

Cheers, cheers for old De La Salle HS '62



PRIDE OF PLACE









Palawan weekend

Architectural excellence

Achievers all

Doubly significant

VISUAL ARTS



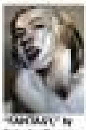
Earist Fine Arts students in Intramuros

5x5-inch works at Big & Small

Women artists at Altro Mondo



'Portal of Enigma' at Ricco Renzo



Niccolo José at Power Plant

Rossacgill at Crucible



Cablog goes solo at Art Center



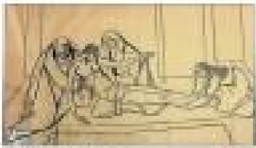




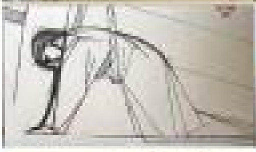


Pampanga museum opens with inaugural exhibit of Manansala works

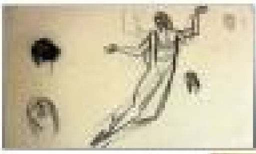
Manansala drawings: Lines of provenance



















Necessity

White paintings

'After Pieter de Hooch'

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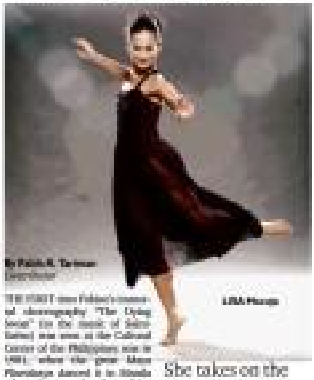
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'The Dying Swan' returns to CCP after 31 years



LISA Macuja

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

[illegible]

> She takes on the difficult ballet for the first time as part of a series of final performances before she brings the curtain down on a brilliant career

[illegible]

Good news

[illegible]

Right time

[illegible]

Rousing performance marks MMCO's 11th-season final concert







FROM BOOK TO SCREEN

'Moneyball': Not just about baseball





Instituto Cervantes holds Cine Chabacano

'The Dying Swan' returns to CCP after 31 years





NCCA's Sayaw marks 10th year with dance tour of Panay



DANCERS of the Shirley Halili-Cruz School of Ballet performing Adele's "Rolling in the Deep"







SHIRLEY Halili-Cruz, head of the NCCA National Committee on Dance



SAYAW Pinoy in San Joaquin, Iloilo





World Theater Day launched in the Philippines this week


SM
SUPERMALLS
EVERYTHING'S
HERE.
FOR HER.
THIS MARCH, CELEBRATE WOMEN'S MONTH.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

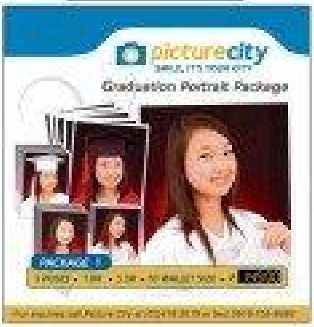


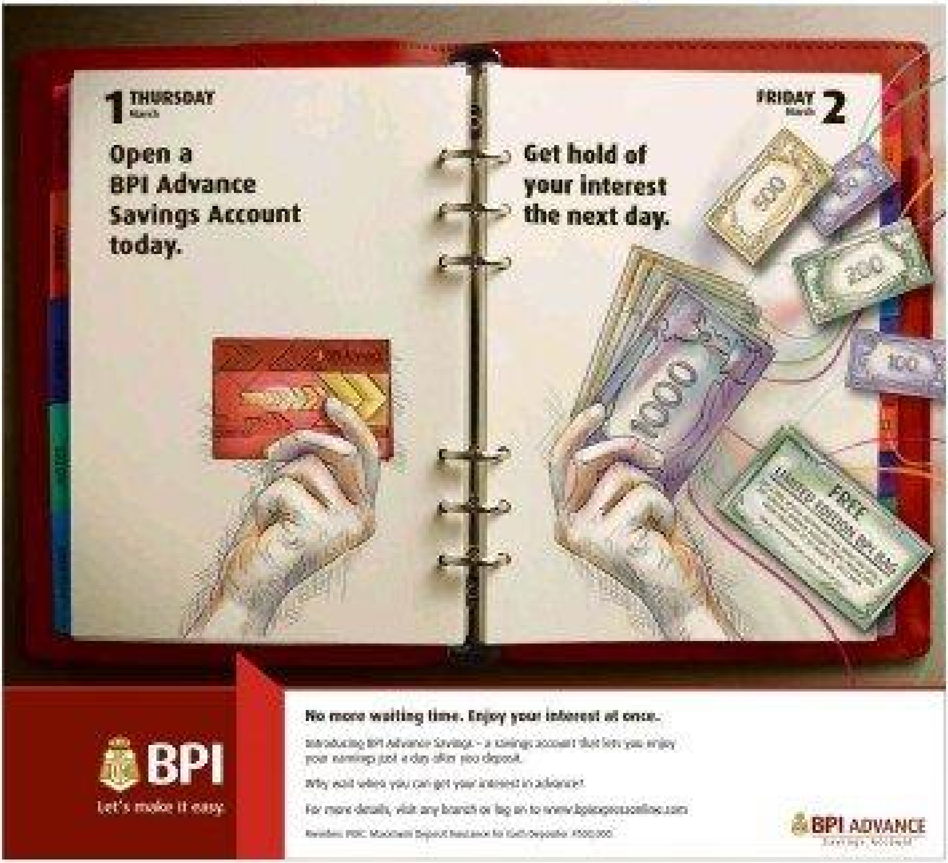
UST Conservatory's annual 'Sampung Mga Daliri' features Polish pianist, ABBA medley

> Now on its 28th year, the concert showcases 10 grand pianos at the CCP









Campaign to raise awareness of dental health continues

Dental health tips





On brushing



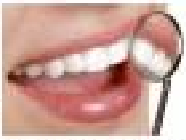
On flossing

On rinsing



On diet to promote a healthier body

On visiting your dentist regularly



Healthy mouth, healthy body




Philippine Dental Association and LISTERINE:
PARTNERS IN PROMOTING
100% BETTER ORAL HEALTH
THE FILIPINO DENTIST
DON'T DO HALF THE JOB
BY JUST BRUSHING ALONE
100% BETTER CLEAN
LISTERINE
& BRUSHING
GET 100% BETTER CLEAN
WITH THE BRUSH-FLOSS-RINSE HABIT
LISTERINE
Cool Mint



St. Scholastica honors women in media via the 6th Hildegarde Awards



WOMEN from South Asia participate in a workshop at Bahay of Isis in Quezon City



Gilda Cordero-Fernando



HILDEGARDE 2012 trophy

Book Board holds World Read Aloud Day

UST holds 4th J. Elizalde Navarro national criticism workshop



UST Conservatory's...

ENTERTAINMENT



Ex-BF drops suit vs Aiko: Good sign, she says



DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

Sigh of relief

Three beauties

Road to success





GLORIA Diaz and Isabelle Daza





Cinemalaya row heats up

Selection committee member quits, 'enraged' by barring of New Breed entry







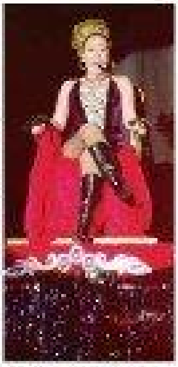
FRANCIS Joseph "Jiggy" Cruz











JoWa wows 'em

Another major US production to shoot here

By the Entertainment Staff

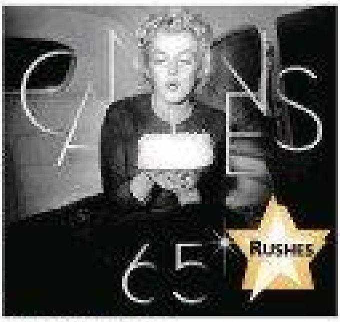
Freudian slip

Moonlighting

Monroe in Cannes

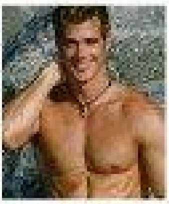
New 'Dancing' cast

Trial witness



CANNES 2012's Marilyn Monroe poster

Silent Dion



TELEMUNDO hunk William Levy

Short stay

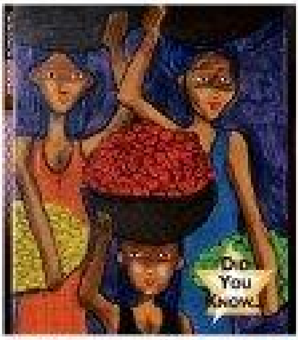
Sean Young nabbed

Entertainment

Living Stars



HEARD

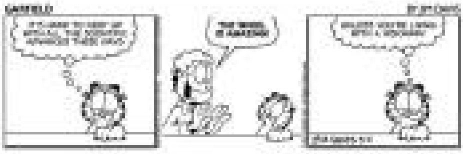






Jao's kaleidoscope life

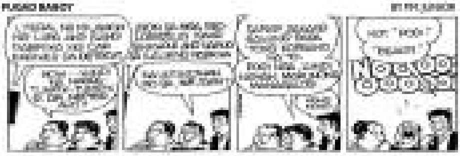
GARFIELD



A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABRERA



PUGAD BABOY — BY PM JUNIOR



DICK TRACY

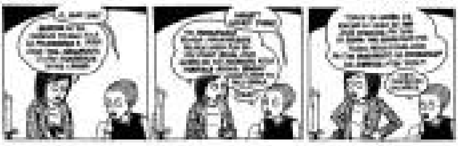


LOVEKNOTS

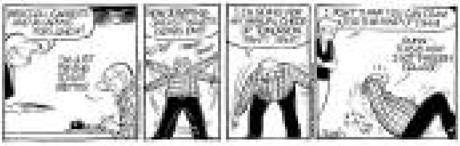


BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT





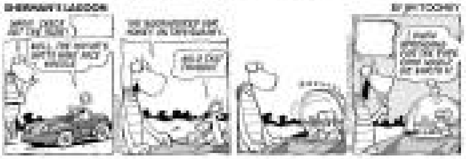
ZEN



MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

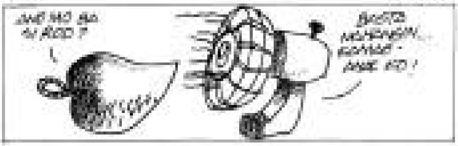


SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY



DUSTIN

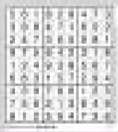




HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

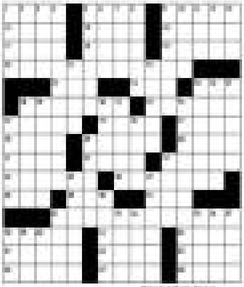
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

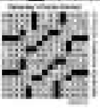


Conceptis Sudoku

1		7			2	5	4	
				9				8
3				6	5	9		1
			3			2		5
	4	6				8	3	
2		9			8			
9		8	6	7				2
4				1				
	2	3	5			1		9

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





This 11-year-old loves to cook

From page G1

out he had stayed on account of the floods. Kyle, only 9 at the time, walked up to the fridge, put stuff together and whipped up something for the people to eat. Kyle has since been helping his dad, who also likes to invent and cook."

Victory parties

Kyle's dad served salad, spring rolls and chicken [illegible] during the grand champ's thanksgiving dinner on Friday at the [illegible] house. Kyle's fellow "MasterChef" contestants, their parents, as well as the production crew, all turned up to celebrate with him.

(He won P1 million in cash and a culinary scholarship worth P1.3 million.)

"Kyle was at school so his dad did all the cooking—except for the lechon," Melanie related. But on his grandfather's [illegible] birthday, Kyle surprised everyone with his version of garlic prawns.

"I cooked eight kilos of prawns," the boy recounted.



PROFESSIONAL set of knives for the serious enthusiast.

It was tough peeling more than one kilo of garlic for that." Also on the menu that night were, again, lechon, [illegible] and the family's specialty pancit bihon.

For "Living Stars," Kyle whipped up his Asian-fusion [illegible] and scallops, the dish he prepared for the judges during the grand finale. His mom enumerated the ingredients: "Somen noodles, scallops, shrimps with garlic [illegible] sauce, lime jelly [illegible] sauce, salad leaves—and the pancit bihon, which was the most difficult to make."



THE FINOY Junior MasterChef with Lola Grace (right) and Lola Tita, who taught him how to cook pancit bihon.

Sports, too

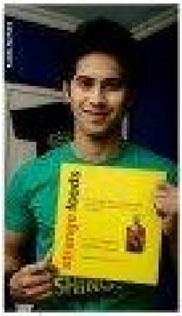
Kyle's parents would like him to continue cooking. "He should do a lot more baking because he's already an expert in savory dishes. Although we don't want him to neglect his studies," Melanie said. Kyle is a sixth grader at the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College in Concepcion, Marikina.

His mom said, "Also, we'd like him to get into sports. He wants to learn how to swim. Gian and I hope to introduce him to biking and mountain climbing. He needs to get more exercise because he just hangs in the kitchen all the time."



KYLE beside an early painting of his grandfather, National Artist for Sculpture Abdulmari Imao.

(E-mail [illegible])



JOSE SARASOLA

Books

MY GRANDMOTHER, [illegible] Hermano, led me to the book "Strange Foods: Bush Meat, Bats and Butterflies: An Epicurean Adventure Around the World" by Jerry Hopkins. My lola worked for Unicef (United Nations Children's Fund). She lived in various countries—Pakistan, India, Thailand. "With each new destination, he made sure to try different kinds of exotic food. The book is his gift to me. I never knew people could eat those things. The weirdest delicacies in the book are monkey brain and scallops.

[illegible]



This 11-year-old loves to cook



GRAND champ Kyle at home last week, as he cooks for Living Stars. At the height of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" two years ago, he surprised everyone by whipping up a dish for stranded guests.



"JUNIOR Masterchef" trophy came with P1M in cash.



By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Romeo Tornilla

"PINOY Junior Masterchef" grand champ Kyle Imao grew up in a house filled not only with the mouthwatering aromas of home cooking, but with aesthetic appreciation for paintings and sculptures as well.

Kyle stays with his grandparents, National Artist for sculpture Abdulmari Asia Imao and art gallery owner Grace de Leon-Imao, in Marikina City. "He sleeps there even if his dad (Gen) and I live just across their house," Kyle's mom, Mylene, told Living Stars during the visit to the Imao Compound.

Mylene added: "He's been their willing errand boy since he was 6, since his grandma had cancer. If she needed anything, even in the middle of the night, Kyle would run to assist her."

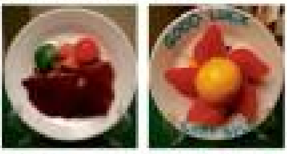
Showroom

The two-story house was a storage space for the family's art collection before it was renovated. This explains why it looks like a showroom of paintings and pieces of wooden and brass sculpture by the elder Imao and Kyle's uncle Toym.

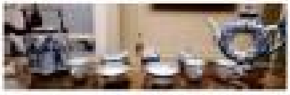
"We're used to changing fixtures. These things are crafted here, and a lot of them are sold and then replaced with new ones. We're using something one day, the next day it's gone," explained Mylene, noting that the family has changed dining tables three times just this year.



HIS winning dish: Asian fusion shrimps and scallops



DECORATIVE plates, gifts from the little chef's supporters.



PART OF Grandma Grace's china collection

Attachments

Kyle's grandmother Grace admitted she sometimes gets emotionally attached to these works of art. "I cried when I sold our first table," she said. "There are stuff here that I can't bear to sell, like the wooden chairs in the living room. They're gifts from Daddy Mare (the elder Imao's nickname). But since I'm an art dealer, I try to avoid getting attached."

Kyle has his own nook on the second floor, where he has mounted his own exhibit of sorts. The 11-year-old is into assembling model kits and toy robots.



AN IMPRESSIVE collection of toy robots

Discovery

His mom said a lot of Kyle's toys and artworks were damaged during Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in 2009. Actually, she said, her son's cooking talent was discovered at the height of the storm.

Mylene recounted: "People, mostly workers employed by Kyle's uncle, got stranded here. They didn't have food and couldn't go

TURN TO G5



WITH mom Mylene and dad Gen



BRASS sculpture by Kyle's uncle Toym







MASSIVE dining table that's also a cherished heirloom in this house of flavors and fine arts.

LEARNING



A whale of a tale



Planting the seed





Enjoy but don't destroy



Monitoring graduation fee, awarding top SPED teachers



The trail to water conservation



Ateneo grade school math olympiad



'Pasiklaban' national finalists named

Monitoring...





SM donates two new schoolbuildings in GenSan

The trail to water...



A whale of a tale

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

[illegible]

AMAES subscribes to Oracle campus software

[illegible]



[illegible]

CLSU community, barangay leaders learn about disaster risk reduction management

[illegible]

LPU-Batangas partners with KSA's Al-Andalus Int'l School on DBA program

[illegible]

Fatima University Gallery opens its first art exhibit in Antipolo City

[illegible]



[illegible]

FEATI networks with PSITE and Spiceworx for out-of-class training

6th Philippine Inter-Collegiate Debating Championship slated April 9-14



HONOR ROLL

FEU graduate bags award at Rotterdam film fest

New VOTY champion orator declared



UM scholar bags champion tilt

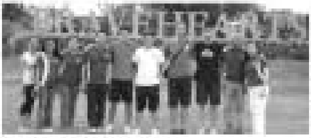
Southville students shine in UN simulation





SPORTS





Team Azkals visits FAITH

De La Salle's Lavoxa harvests top journ awards



UE prof is now IBM-certified academic associate

CAMPUS BRIEFS

CEU hosts PCDEB pre-annual national conference meeting

CCP College of Engineering conducts technology seminars



Letran holds graduation rites for Gyeongju U Korean students

Lyceum Law sets grand alumni homecoming March 9

Out-of-school Malaysians find their SOLS





Young leaders invited to 7th business summit



1st Youth Leaders Summit for Good Governance

PH education in last 50 years

Innovation marks 2nd PSHS-Meralco Science Fair



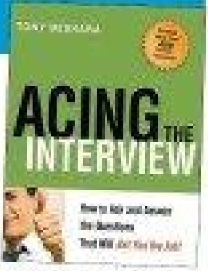
Graduation goodies





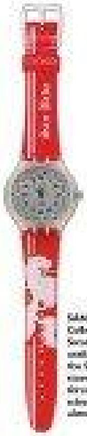


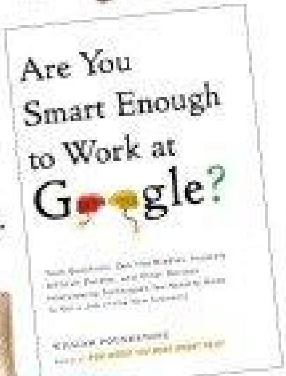


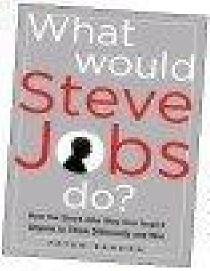


















Stores are located at all major malls in the country.

Telecom network engineering program now in PH

Seminar on crafting risk management manual